[English]

Facing of Resource Gap

161. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is facing a resource gap of Rs. 75,000 crore for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Commission about the available resources and also which are likely to fall short of; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) According to the latest assessment of the Planning Commission, there would be no resource gap in financing the Public Sector Plan of Rs. 875 thousand crore, indicated in the "Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)" approved by the National Development Council.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Community Health Guide

162. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any project under Village Health Guides Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Village Health Guides are being provided only Rs. 50/- per month and no medicine is given to them. and

(d) if so, the reason therefor and the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is Village Health Guide Scheme.

(b) Under the Scheme a volunteer is selected to serve the community on voluntary basis and is being paid a honorarium of Rs. 50/- per month through the State Government. The criteria for selection of the volunteer are that he/she should have had basic education upto 6th class and preference is to be given to the retired defence personnel if available. He/she is not supposed to consider his/her role as a source of income or as a step towards future employment under the Govt.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An experts committee has been set up to look into the various aspects of the Village Health Guide Scheme.

Child Labour

163. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY :
SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :
SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to make the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act more stringent and effective; and

(b) the number of instance in which action was taken for violation of the pact during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In the wake of the judgement dated the 10th December, 1996 of the Supreme Court and the Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisaging elimination of child labour in all its forms, the issue regarding amendment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to make it more stringent and effective, was discussed in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1997. Important suggestions made in the Conference to make the Act more stringent include (a) making the offence a cognizable one; (b) making the penalties more stringent and deterrent; and (c) the responsibility as to the proof of age of a child being made that of the employer. The proposal to amend the Act accordingly is currently under consideration.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Scam in CGHS Dispensary

164. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any government agency has investigated any scam in CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries particularly at North Avenue, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of enquiries carried out since January, 1996 till date;

(c) the outcome of said enquiries; and

(d) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) According to the information received from the CGHS Directorate, no Scam pertaining to CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary, North Avenue has come to their notice.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Advantage of Modern Medicines

165. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of the Government to ensure that the advantage of the most modern medicines reaches to the common people;

(b) whether any other institution of World level besides World Health Organisation is active to ensure that the benefits of the research in the field of medicines is received by the common man; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) Health is a State Subject and concerned State Governments draw up their own plans. The Government of India has also formulated health programmes for control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases. Essential medicines are made available through these National Health Programmes. The Government of India also allow the import of such modern medicines which are not available in the country after approval by the Drug Controller General of India. In addition to the WHO, other International agencies which help in the procurement of drugs include UNICEF, SIDA, USAID, World Bank, CDA & DANIDA.

[English]

Computerisation

166. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by National Informatic Centre (NIC) from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for net working of its various departments as a step towards total computerisation;

(b) the status of work completed and work in hand at present;

(c) whether there is an undue delay in execution of the projects;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

Scientists in Nuciear Field

167. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atomic energy stations in India;

(b) the total number of Indian Scientists working in these units;

(c) whether any International Experts are working or advising in any of these units, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any of the above units are technically equipped or assisted by Russia or USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) At present there are five operating atomic power stations in India.

(b) The total number of Scientists working in the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited which operates these stations as on date in around 2630 which includes Scientific Officers/Engineers, Doctors, Physicists, Radiologists, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Units 1 and 2 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station and Rajasthan Atomic Power Station were technically assisted/ equipped by USA and Canada respectively. All other units have been constructed indigenously.

Central Secretariat Service

168. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: